

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1954.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

J. F. Gilbert, Esq., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

W. S. Hawkins, Esq.

COUNCILLORS:

Dr. A. A. Clay. D. J. Murray, Esq.
J. F. Gilbert, Esq., J.P. A. Leary, Esq.
J.P.L. Hobbs, Esq., B.E.M. Miss D.M.E. Smith.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Borough of Buckingham, the Urban Districts of Bletchley and Linslade, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District.)

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

J. F. Hopkin, A.M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices,
60, High Street,
NEWPORT PAGNELL.

2nd June, 1955.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Urban District of Newport Pagnell

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the
year 1954.

The Birth Rate shows a satisfactory rise over the previous
year, but is still a few points below that for the rest of the
County and that for England and Wales.

The Death Rate is indeed at a satisfactory low level being
much below that for the Country as a whole. The actual figure
being 7.9 per 1,000 as against 11.3 for England and Wales. Of
the total deaths of 52, 36 were due to diseases of the Heart and
Circulatory System and Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a decrease from last
year. There were 2 actual deaths in this group both under the
age of 4 weeks.

During the year the town was visited by the Mass Radiography
Unit. 1,680 individuals were X-rayed and out of this number 3
active cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were discovered. Al-
though great hopes are entertained of an efficient vaccination
against T.B. there is no doubt that X-ray of the chest is at
present our most powerful weapon in the prevention and control of
Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The fact that 3 cases were detected
before there were any clinical signs of the disease means that
not only will the individuals concerned be cured, but the risk of
communicating the disease to others will be reduced to a minimum.

I took over the appointment of Medical Officer of Health in

July 1954 from Dr. C.H.F.Bailey who had retired the previous month. It is sad to record that Dr. Bailey has since passed away, and was only for a very short time able to enjoy a well earned retirement after 35 years with the Council.

Lastly I should like to record the helpful co-operation I have had from your Clerk Mr. Hall, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hopkin, and their staffs.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

Medical Officer of Health.

NEWPORT PAGNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Area (in acres)	3,432	3,432
Population	4,268	4,290
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,486	1,512
Rateable Value	£24,211	£24,539
Rate per Pound	26/-	26/-
Sum represented by a 1d rate	£95	£94

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Legitimate (males)	27	28
" (females)	23	29
Illegitimate (males)	1	1
" (females)	-	1
Stillbirths (female)	-	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	12.87	14.6
" " " " " (Bucks)	14.9	15.6
" " " " " (England & Wales)	15.5	15.2

DEATHS

Males	51	30
Females	81	22
Death rate per 1,000 population	20.71	7.9
" " " " " (Bucks)	9.7	9.5
" " " " " (England & Wales)	11.4	11.3
Maternal Mortality	-	-

DEATHS (Cont'd.)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>
Maternal Mortality (Bucks)	·33	·47
Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births)	58·8	33·9
Infantile Mortality (Bucks)	20·0	22·4
Infantile Mortality (England & Wales)	26·8	25·5

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>1954</u>		
	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Cancer	6	2	8
Diabetes	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	2	7
Heart Diseases	11	10	21
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Bronchitis	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	1	0	1
Nephritis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion ..	0	0	0
Congenital Diseases	0	0	0
Accidents	0	1	1
Suicide	1	0	1
All other causes	1	2	3
	—	—	—
Totals	30	22	52
	—	—	—

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton. Samples of water and sewage for chemical analysis are sent, in the case of water to the Analyst, Bucks Water Board, and in the case of sewage to the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services are administered by the County Council, and are controlled in the North Bucks Area from a station at Bletchley. In Newport Pagnell three ambulances are maintained, supplemented if necessary by ambulances from other Districts.

3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic which is held at the Congregational School on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, is attended by a Medical Officer, Health Visitor, District Nurse and of course members of the Voluntary Committee. I should like to pay tribute to these ladies of the Voluntary Committee who give up their spare time to this work. During the year 744 children attended this Clinic.

5. HOME HELP SERVICE

This service, administered on behalf of the County Council by the Womens Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. During the year 97 cases were assisted.

6. ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Organised by the Regional Hospital Board. This Clinic meets fortnightly on a Friday.

7. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have served this area:-

Northampton General Hospital.
Bedford County Hospital.
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.
Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.
Harborough Road Isolation Hospital.
Renny Lodge Hospital.
Westbury Maternity Home.
Creaton Sanatorium.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLY

During the year the Council have maintained their two supply sources at Caldecote and Ash Hill, and a limited quantity has been supplied by the Bucks Water Board. The new 240,000 gallon high level storage tank at Ash Hill was completed, sterilised and put into commission on Friday 2nd July, 1954.

On Tuesday 27th July, 1954, owing to notification of the Wolverton U.D.C. distribution system being infested by Nais Worms, and as that Authority derives its supply from the Bucks Water Board through a common trunk main with Newport Pagnell, it was considered advisable to discontinue taking water from the Board's supply until the source of infestation had been investigated. The supply was resumed on Friday 24th September, 1954. No infestation by the Nais Worm affected the Council's water distribution system.

During the year 13 samples from the Ash Hill source and 12 samples from the Caldecote source were submitted for Bacteriological Examination. In all cases the water was proved to be very satisfactory.

One sample of water from the Ash Hill source and one from Caldecote were submitted during the year for Chemical Examination. The results were as follows:-

Source .ASH.HILL.SUPPLY..... Taken..22nd.November,.1954.....

Appearance	..	..	..	Clear, trace of suspended matter.
pH Value	..	..	..	7.4
Colour	..	..	..	15
Turbidity	..	..	..	-

(results in parts per million)

Ammonia Nitrogen	..	..	..	0.012
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	0.100
Nitrite Nitrogen	..	..	..	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	3.00
O ₂ absorbed from permanganate (3 Hours at 37°C.)	..	..	..	1.18
Free CO ₂	..	..	..	14
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	240
Carbonate Hardness	..	..	..	240
Non-Carbonate Hardness	..	..	..	137
Total Hardness	..	..	..	378
Total Solids (dried at 180°C.)	..	..	..	512

Calcium, as Ca	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Magnesium, as Mg	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.2
Sulphate, as SO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	..	118
Chloride, as Cl	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Silica, as SiO ₂	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Iron, as Fe	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	Very small trace
Soluble							

Residual Chlorine very slight trace, less than
0.05 p.p.m.

Remarks: "Microscopical Examination of the concentrated suspended matter showed it to be mainly vegetable debris. A number of very small protozoa were noted and one euglenoid organism. This is hard water showing slight signs of organic pollution of a vegetable nature, but satisfactory for potable purposes provided sterilisation has produced a water with suitable absence of bacteria."

Source...CALDECOTE.SUPPLY.... Taken...22nd.November,.1954;....

Appearance	..	..	..	Clear, slight deposit of chalk.
pH Value	..	..	..	.. .. above 8.8
Colour	..	..	..	.. .. 15
Turbidity	..	..	..	.. .. -

(results in parts per million)

Ammonia Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.078
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.084
Nitrite Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	Very slight trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.34
O ₂ absorbed from permanganate (3 Hours at 37°C.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.20
Free CO ₂	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	..	78	total	(28p.p.m.	to phenolphthalein)		
Carbonate Hardness	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
Non-Carbonate Hardness	..	..	..	..	..	..	134
Total Hardness	..	..	..	..	..	..	212
Total Solids (dried at 120°C.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	320

Calcium, as Ca	..	..	..	..	..	77.5
Magnesium, as Mg	..	..	..	..	..	4.4
Sulphate, as SO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	130
Chloride, as Cl	..	..	..	..	..	27
Silica, as SiO ₂	..	..	..	..	..	11
Iron, as Fe	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	Very slight trace, less than 0.05p.p.m.			
Soluble						
Residual Chlorine	..	..	..	..	0.30 as chloramine.	

Remarks: "The slight deposit in the water was examined microscopically, and proved to be crystalline calcium carbonate. No organisms were noted.

This is a water which has been satisfactorily softened with lime. The ammonia is present as chloramine.

Provided no adverse bacteriological report is received this water is satisfactory for public supply."

During the year there has been no shortage of water in the town, and since the completion of the new high level storage tank at Ash Hill the consumption from the three supplies has been approximately as follows:-

Ash Hill Supply	60,000	G.P.D.
Caldecote Supply	40,000	G.P.D.
Bucks Water Supply	60,000	G.P.D.
Total	<u>160,000</u>	G.P.D.

Of this quantity 29,000 gallons per day were taken through metered supplies, mainly not domestic.

Up to the limit of labour available, work has been expended on water waste detection, and the programme of works provides for additional expenditure in this regard during 1955.

There are 17 houses not supplied with water from public mains. It is hoped that this number will be reduced during the coming year. The percentage of dwellings served with water from the public supply is 98.88%.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewage works and pumping stations continued to deal adequately with the flow of sewage from the existing built up areas of the town. The effluent discharged into the River Lovat is clear and of good quality. The report of a sample submitted for examination reads as follows:-

Taken 11.8.54.

Results Expressed in Parts Per Million

Appearance	Yellow-brown slight opalescence with a flocculent deposit of brown humus.	
Colour	Yellow-brown.	
Odour	Slightly earthy	pH .. 7.5
Suspended Matter, Total	11	
" " Volatile on Ignition	-	
Chlorine in Chlorides	46	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	34	
Nitrogen in Nitrites	0.1 approx.	
Free Ammonia	0.08	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.066	
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.84	
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.69	
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hours at 27°C..	7.1	
" " 3 mins. at 27°C..	-	
Impurity Figure	78 = Grains per gallon	
Strength, Royal Commission	-	
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5 days, 18.3°C.)	11	

"This sample shows a high degree of nitrification and has a very moderate content of suspended matter and organic matter. The effluent is therefore of very good quality."

The disposal of sludge tended to become a problem during the early part of the year, but this now appears to be adequately solved.

Subject to the proposed development at the western end end of the town being carried into effect it will be necessary to increase the capacity of the sewerage system along the Wolverton Road.

There has been no flooding of property during the year.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

Although some difficulty in the recruitment of labour has been experienced from time to time during the year, the weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained.

Some work on the improvement of the refuse tip has been carried out using excavated materials from sites of highway works. Further works could with advantage be carried out.

The salvage of paper has continued as in previous years.

4. BATHING PLACE

Owing to the unsuitable condition of the water in the River Lovat, the Bathing Place was not used during the year.

The Council are formulating plans for the improvement of the Bathing Facilities, and with the improvement of the condition of the river water it is hoped that bathing will recommence during 1956.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

During the year 2 two bedroom type houses, 2 three bedroom houses and 6 one bedroom bungalows were erected by the Council.

4 houses constructed by private enterprise were completed and a further four houses were constructed by the Police Authority.

4 houses were under construction by the Local Authority at the end of the year.

Houses Erected by the Local Authority.

Broad Street Estate (pre-war)	28	
" " " (post-war)	<u>82</u>	110
Little Linford Lane		16
Tickford Street Bungalows		16
Tickford Street Houses		4
London Road Houses		14
Little Bury Field Estate Houses		38
" " " " Bungalows		12
" " " " (under construction)		4
" " " " (at planning state)		<u>18</u>
		<u>232</u>

A further 2 houses and 1 dwelling house/shop were in course of erection, and one flat dwelling in course of construction above business premises at the end of the year.

Housing Acts

A schedule of unfit houses is in course of preparation for the consideration of the Council. During the year three dwellings were demolished under informal procedure, and a further three houses were closed. Action was taken in 58 cases to remedy defects at 58 dwellings.

SECTION E.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS, ETC.

1. GENERAL

Fourteen cases of Nuisances were dealt with by informal action during the course of the year.

2. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

With the exception of one case the sanitary accommodation of factories was found satisfactory.

Owing to construction additions and/or alteration to Factory layout it was necessary to amend the Certificate issued under Section 34 (Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire) in regard to three factory premises. Form 572 has been completed.

3. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1926-1948

There are no bottling premises in the town, and purveyors deliver milk in the sealed containers in which it is required.

7 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk were submitted for laboratory examination.

9 samples of Pasteurised milk were examined.

6 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk were submitted for examination.

In each case the milk was found to conform to the standard for the designation.

4. ICE CREAM

Twenty eight premises are registered for the purpose of the sale of ice cream. Only one premises is registered for the purpose of manufacturing ice cream.

Premises, equipment and records subject to control have been inspected and found to be satisfactorily maintained.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licenced slaughterhouses within the district although one has not been used for that purpose throughout the year.

A very limited amount of slaughtering is carried on at the other slaughterhouse, and the work is restricted to the slaughter of sheep with an occasional pig or calve.

Both properties are old, badly sited and not adequate for unrestricted slaughtering.

6. UN SOUND FOOD

During the year it has been found necessary to issue condemnation certificates in respect of the following foodstuffs:-

62 cans of Fruit	9 cans of Fish
53 " " Vegetables	5 " " Soup
13 " " Meat	27 " " Milk
51 lbs Meat Products	2 " " Sausages
(Sausages etc.)	1 pkt. of Semolina
11 lbs Offal	
7 lbs Carcase Meat (Mutton)	

This unsound food has been destroyed by burning or burying at the house refuse tip.

7. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council are members of the North Bucks Area Rodent Committee, and during the year a total of 554 properties were inspected for the purpose of rat and mice infestation. Of this number 454 were visits to dwelling house property and the remainder to business, agricultural and Local Authority premises.

71 properties were found to have some infestation by rats and were treated. Mice were dealt with at 3 properties. Treatment to dwelling house property is a free service undertaken by the Council.

Testing of the sewerage system of the town has been carried out in accordance with the Ministry's specification. It is gratifying to note that the last test showed a complete absence from rodent infestation.

SECTION F.

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. NOTIFICATIONS

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

2. TUBERCULOSIS

Three cases were notified, but it is satisfactory to report that there were no deaths.

3. CANCER

This disease continues to take its toll. There were 8 deaths during the year.

4. GENERAL

1954 was a very satisfactory year for notifiable Infectious Diseases. There were no Measles as against 102 cases the previous year. It is also satisfactory to note that no case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified.

D. H. WALDRON.

Medical Officer of Health.